

It seems to differ widely from cocain, in that it acts as a vaso-dilator rather than a vaso-constrictor. Its toxic relation to cocain is as three to one, cocain being three times more toxic.

Dr. A. W. Hewlett gave a brief report of some experimental work to determine the part played by bile in the digestion of fats. When added to pancreatic juice, digestion of fats was very greatly quickened; he thought possibly it might make a proferment into a ferment. Pure lecithin he found would also greatly increase the digestion of fats by pancreatic juice.

On motion of Dr. Philip Mills Jones, the academy unanimously extended a vote of thanks to Dr. Harry M. Sherman for having so generously allowed the academy to meet in his offices for several years past. It was also moved and carried that gentlemen proposed for membership be invited to read a paper before the academy before action upon their applications.

San Joaquin Valley.

The San Joaquin Valley Medical Society held its eighteenth semi-annual session in Fresno, October 11th, with about fifty members and visitors present. The following program was carried out: "The Menopause," Dr. E. S. O'Brien, Merced; discussion opened by Dr. J. L. McClelland, Los Banos. "Infant Feeding," Dr. O. W. Steinwand, Selma; discussion opened by Dr. M. L. Pettitt, Visalia. "Injuries of the Head," Dr. P. Manson, Fresno; discussion opened by Dr. J. D. Davidson, Fresno. "Puerperal Infection," Dr. A. M. Smith, Merced; discussion opened by Dr. W. T. Barr, Fresno.

Since our last meeting our membership has been depleted by the loss of our esteemed co-worker, Dr. R. O. Phillips, of Kingsburg.

Whereas, By the death of our brother, this society has lost a valued and zealous member, one ever ready to lend his best endeavors for the interest of this society and the profession at large. He was ever faithful to the duties intrusted to him; he was always ready to aid his professional brothers to the extent of his ability. The community in which he lived and worked also has lost a true and faithful friend, who freely gave his time and service for their relief, and was ever ready and willing to answer a call and administer to their wants; therefore be it

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of this society, published in the STATE JOURNAL, and a copy be sent to his family.

J. D. DAVIDSON,
P. N. RUSSELL,
R. E. BERING,
Committee.

The next meeting will be held at Merced in March.

The following were elected officers for the ensuing six months: President, Dr. W. E. Lilley, Merced; vice-president, Dr. H. St. G. Hopkins, Fresno; second vice-president, Dr. O. W. Steinwand, Selma; third vice-president, Dr. Furtney, Dinuba, the secretary, Dr. J. R. Walker, the assistant secretary, Dr. A. B. Cowan, and the treasurer, Dr. T. M. Hayden, holding over.

Dr. A. W. Morton, of San Francisco, was a visitor.

After an interesting and profitable session, the Fresno County Society tendered a banquet to the San Joaquin Valley Society and the guests.

J. R. WALKER, Secretary.

Pan-American Medical Congress.

Dr. Frank Adams, president of the State Society, has been requested to appoint delegates to the Fourth Pan-American Medical Congress, to be held in Panama from the 4th to the 7th of January, 1905. Dr. Adams makes the wise suggestion that those who think they can attend this meeting notify him so that he may appoint delegates who will be in attendance. If you intend to attend the Pan-American, notify Dr. Adams and go as a delegate.

ALCOHOL IN SUPPOSEDLY DECENT PROPRIETARY NOSTRUMS.

The following is an abstract of a paper by Dr. Charles Harrington, published in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, entitled, "The Composition and Alcoholic Content of Certain Proprietary Foods for the Sick":

In presenting this brief communication I propose to discuss neither the question of the food value of alcohol nor the advisability of the use of that agent as a remedy in the treatment of disease. It is my intention merely to offer the results of my examination of a number of preparations which are extensively advertised, and, inferentially, widely used, as foods for the sick and for convalescents, and to leave the question of their true nutritive and therapeutic value a matter for independent judgment.

My attention was drawn to this class of preparations by the fact that an invalid who was faithfully following the directions accompanying one of them was observed to be more or less constantly in a state of intoxication, for which condition no cause could be assigned, until the suspicion was directed to the food, which proved, on analysis, to contain a fairly large percentage of alcohol; and this suggested the advisability of obtaining specimens of other preparations for investigation.

"Liquid Peptonoids.—Beef, milk and gluten, perfectly digested" is said to contain the albuminoid principles of beef, milk and wheat. "In cases of feeble digestion and wasting diseases," its effects are said to be "immediate and pronounced."

Dose: For an adult, one or two tablespoonfuls, three to six times daily; children in proportion.

The maximum amount recommended for an adult will yield less than an ounce of nutriment and the alcoholic equivalent of 3.50 oz. of whisky per day.

Analysis shows 23.03 per cent by volume of alcohol, 14.91 per cent of total solids, and 0.17 per cent of mineral matter.

Panopepton.—This is said to contain "the nutritive constituents of beef and wheat in a soluble and freely absorbable form." "A nourishing, restorative, stimulant, liquid food of incomparable value for the nutrition of the sick;" "the best food in acute diseases, fevers, etc.; in convalescence;" "a restorative from fatigue;" "a special resource against insomnia."

Directions: "For adults, a dessert-spoonful to a teaspoonful several times a day and at bedtime; for infants, a few drops to a half teaspoonful according to circumstances, as directed by the physician."

It yields 17.99 per cent of solid matter (including 0.97 per cent of mineral matter) and 18.95 per cent by volume of alcohol.

Hemapeptone.—This is said to be a preparation of "albumose-peptone," "the end product of digestion of albumin and hematin, a true organic iron."

One is advised to take a teaspoonful, increasing to a tablespoonful as needed, after each meal.

Analysis: Alcohol by volume, 10.60 per cent; total solids, 19.54 per cent; mineral matter, 0.37 per cent.

Nutritive Liquid Peptone.—This is said to be "a valuable combination containing the nutritive constituents of beef and malt, predigested and ready for assimilation," and to possess "the properties of a gentle and refreshing stimulant."

No dose is given. The analysis shows: Alcohol by volume, 14.81 per cent; total solid nutriment, 15.20 per cent; mineral matter, 0.69 per cent.

Hemaboloids.—The nutriment in hemaboloids is said to be "partially digested and vitalized by treatment with nuclein, rich in iron and phosphorous-producing elements." It is said to enrich the blood, to increase weight and the number of red blood cells, and to enhance nerve action. The preparation is said to consist of vegetable nucleo-albumin, reinforced by beef marrow extract and beef peptones, and is to be used in all impoverished conditions of

the blood, such as anemia, general debility and in convalescence from all diseases.

The dose recommended is one-half to one teaspoonful three to four times daily in a little water, plain or aerated, or with cracked ice. "If necessary, increase to two tablespoonfuls."

The maximum recommended yields about a quarter of an ounce of nutriment, and the alcoholic equivalent of about one ounce and a half of whisky daily.

Analysis shows 6.36 per cent of total solids (about half as much as is contained in milk of fair quality) and 15.81 per cent by volume of alcohol. The mineral matter, which is largely iron, amounts to 0.62 per cent.

Tonic Beef.—Tonic Beef is said to contain "the nutritive constituents of beef, wheat and fresh eggs in a soluble, predigested and hence readily absorbable form." One is led to believe that the beef is carefully selected, and that the blending of the constituents of these three very important foods, and their flavoring and aging (whatever that may mean in connection with eggs), have been conducted on most scientific principles. Adults are advised to take from half to one tablespoonful every four hours and at bedtime; infants and children should be given from ten drops to a teaspoonful, according to age.

A teaspoonful every four hours will yield to the consumer in the course of the day about a half ounce of nutriment and the alcoholic equivalent of an ounce of whisky, for analysis shows 15.58 per cent by volume of alcohol and 18.16 per cent by weight of residue, including 1.04 per cent of mineral matter.

Mulford's Predigested Beef.—"A concentrated predigested food containing the entire nutritive value of beef in a completely digested form, ready for immediate absorption into the system."

It is claimed for it that "it is a complete natural food product, containing sufficient nutritive materials to maintain normal nutrition of the body," and that it is "indicated as an exclusive diet in typhoid fever, la grippe, tuberculosis, nervous exhaustion and all conditions of the system associated with enfeebled digestion and malnutrition."

Dose: One to two tablespoonfuls in water every two or three hours, or as needed; children in proportion to age.

Analysis shows 19.72 per cent by volume of alcohol, 10.39 per cent by weight of total solids, which yield 0.20 per cent of mineral matter.

The maximum administration recommended, that is, two tablespoonfuls every two hours, disregarding the proviso "or as needed," would yield daily about 1.25 ounces of nutriment and the alcoholic equivalent of about six ounces of whisky, which might well be regarded as hardly adequate as an exclusive diet, in the diseases above mentioned or in any other condition of the system.

[Note.—One cannot but wonder whether the formulas of the above, filed with the *Journal of the A. M. A.*, disclose the quantity of whisky equivalent contained in them.—Ed.]

NO DISEASE INSIGNIFICANT.

No disease should be looked on as insignificant. Nothing seems less becoming than to hear medical men speaking lightly of disease in general, or of any disease in particular. It is no consolation to the mother whose child has died of one of the rare complications of chickenpox to find that many physicians think that too trivial to concern themselves with. Nor does it increase confidence in the profession to have hysteria and neurasthenia considered imaginary and ridiculous evidences of perversity, while the impatience, not to say lack of scientific interest sometimes shown toward other less well-defined neuroses, undoubtedly has some relation with the crowded ranks of followers of "isms" of all kinds.—Dr. Dock, Oration on Medicine, A. M. A.

THE UTERO-SACRAL LIGAMENTS AND THEIR RELATION TO THE GENERAL PELVIC CONDITION, OF WHICH RETROVERSION OF THE UTERUS IS THE CHIEF SYMPTOM.*

By W. FRANCIS B. WAKEFIELD, M. D., San Francisco.

SIMPLE, mechanical retroversion of the uterus, uncomplicated by any other pelvic disturbance, is rarely, if ever, seen by the gynecologist. The few cases that appear to be uncomplicated would probably be found with an associated pathologic lesion, if painstaking search were made therefor.

I am inclined, in general, to accept Baldy's proposition that we cease to regard a retroverted uterus as a pathologic entity, but rather that we look upon it as one of the results produced by morbid pelvic conditions. The enumeration of these different diseased conditions does not form a part of this paper, but, in general, may be said to be anything that disturbs the normal pelvic circulation, inhibits the pelvic nerve supply, or produces abnormal pressure, by any of which means the natural tonicity of the supporting structures of the uterus may be weakened, permitting them to become relaxed.

If one considers carefully the anatomic construction of the uterine ligaments, one cannot help but be impressed with the importance of the utero-sacral ligaments as the chief factor in maintaining the uterus in its normal position. We have seven pairs of ligaments connected with the uterus, three pairs being peritoneal reflections, and generally termed false ligaments, and four pairs of true ligaments composed of fibro-muscular structure. The false ligaments are: the lateral or broad ligaments, the anterior or vesico-uterine ligaments, and the posterior or recto-uterine ligaments. The true ligaments are: the round ligaments, the utero-sacral ligaments, the utero-pelvic ligaments, and the utero-ovarian ligaments.

The false ligaments, while generally supportive in character, cannot be considered truly supporting to the uterus. They fail to contain the proper histologic elements necessary to secure adequate supporting power. Their function is of a three-fold character: 1. They form an elastic, bridge-like structure for the conveyance and support of the vessels and nerves supplying the uterus. 2. They serve to maintain normal anatomic relations between the uterus and the other pelvic organs. 3. They act as buffers in reducing pelvic friction to the minimum.

Now let us look at the true ligaments and see what supporting power they have. The round ligaments act as guys, allowing the uterus a free play of motion, and yet becoming taut if the uterine fundus be pushed back farther than an inch or an inch and a quarter. The utero-ovarian ligaments give no support to the uterus, but act as a support to the ovaries, holding them up in their normal pelvic plane. The utero-pelvic ligaments, passing from the pelvic fascia over the upper part of the internal obturator muscle to the sides of the uterus and vagina, limit the side play of the cervix, and, when acting in conjunction with the utero-sacral ligaments, help to maintain the natural uterine equipoise. The utero-sacral ligaments, attached to the upper part of the cervix at one end and to the upper and lateral aspect of the sacrum at the other, hold the cervix backwards and upwards, thereby promoting anteversion of the uterine fundus. It is quite obvious that it would be difficult for the fundus to become retroverted while the upper cervix is sustained in the direction of a line drawn from the internal os to the sacro-lumbar articulation.

To recapitulate, then, we have, under normal conditions, the round ligaments acting as an anterior stay to the fundus, limiting its backward displacement;

*Read at the Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of the State Society, Paso Robles, April 19-21, 1904.